

Abstract

A system is for use in printing data on a printer. A client interfaces with an applications program that has a print capability. A print server in communication with the client controls a printing of data communicated to the print server by the client. A user interface manager communicates with the print server by an asynchronous bi-directional communications channel between the print server and the client. The user interface manager responds to a user interface message sent from the print server to display information to a user in a flexible custom manner. One exemplary system includes a user display. The message sent to the client user interface manager by the server is a language neutral message that is interpreted by the user interface manager and converted to another representation for presentation to the user on the user display. When used in a printing environment, i.e. where a client print spooler and a server print server do the printing, the language neutral message is converted at the client by the user interface manager into a message or display suitable for a user.